

## Exodus 30:11-38 - Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- Last week we left off in verse 10 of chapter 30, and will now begin in verse 11 and, Lord willing, complete the chapter tonight.
- There is much personal application in this chapter, and I don't want to rush through it lest we miss what the Lord has for us in it.

11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 12 "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them. 13 This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the LORD.

- Here, Moses was to count the Israelites for the purpose of their salvation from any plague. Interestingly, this was to be mandatory.
- What makes this so interesting is that most of the offerings we've seen, here-to-for, were to be voluntary however, this one is not.
- In other words, whenever a census of the children of Israel was taken, it was done so that everyone would "give a ransom for himself."

"Each census was to be attended with a redemption. Every one of the Lord's people was thus to be redeemed as a testimony to all generations that redemption is essential to acceptance with God. Had we not been bought with a price, the fierce plagues of divine punishment would have followed us even to the lowest hell."

Charles Spurgeon

- This brings up an interesting question; wasn't numbering the people forbidden? Didn't David do this resulting in a plague killing 70,000?

**1 Chronicles 21:1-2, 14** 1 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are." ... 14 So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead.

- At first it may seem like God is contradicting Himself when He tells Moses to count the children of Israel so no plague comes on them.
- However, there is a very distinct difference between the two. As one said it; David did it for gratification, but Moses did it for salvation.
- Moses was to number them for the purpose of their ransom so they would be saved. We see a numbering related to salvation in Acts.

**Acts 2:41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. NIV

- Another question that can be asked is why the plague had to kill 70,000 of them if numbering wasn't for the purpose of salvation.
- The thought is that numbering people meant you were Lording it over people and taking ownership of that which belongs to the Lord.
- This was the implication with David, in that he took the census without the ransom money so God brought the plague upon them.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. NKJV

- There's another interesting detail that can easily be missed, it was the shekels that were to be counted and not the Israelites.
- Again, this is why no plague came upon them, the price, 1 ½ shekels, had been paid so they would be saved from the plague.
- Now, this brings up the question of whether or not it's ok for a church to number its members. Well, as a Calvary Chapel, we sure don't.

"One of the wisest things I ever did when I was still involved in a denomination was to stop counting the number of people. The church always had this chart on the wall that showed Sunday School attendance today, last Sunday, and a year ago. There was a constant emphasis on numbers. People were always being reminded of attendance statistics. "Where are we in relationship to last Sunday?" "Where are we in relationship to a year ago?" "Where is everybody today?" "Why is it that we're down?" The people were constantly interested in numbers. The trap of counting heads is a terrible snare to fall into. Don't do it! Just look at those that are there and realize, "These are the ones that the Lord has brought for me to minister to today." Give them your best, and minister to them from your heart. Minister to them diligently. As you're faithful, and as you prove yourself a faithful steward, the Lord will bring you more people to watch over, to care for, and to minister to. So be faithful to those that God has placed under your tutelage."

Chuck Smith "The Calvary Chapel Distinctives" p. 7

14 Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD. 15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves. 16 And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

- These two verses have been the source of some misunderstanding. Some have taken this to mean that one would purchase salvation.
- Clearly, we know from scripture that this is absolutely not the case. We can't purchase salvation, but salvation had to be purchased.
- Also, it was for those 20 year olds and above. This may suggest that this is the age in which the Israelites acknowledged adulthood.
- More importantly, the same price of 1 ½ shekel's was paid regardless of whether or not one was rich or poor. It was the same for all.

"The rich were not to give more, the poor not to give less; to signify that all souls were equally precious in the sight of God, and that no difference of outward circumstances could affect the state of the soul; all had sinned, and all must be redeemed by the same price."

Adam Clarke

"Believers vary in knowledge, gifts, and graces, but they are all redeemed with the same price. The meanest believer was bought with the same blood as the chief of the apostles. The poor, the obscure, the faulty, the illiterate, are as dear to the heart of Jesus as the richest and most gifted saint. What a sweet thought! Here is the true equality. 'His righteousness is unto all and upon all them that believe, for there is no difference.' Let us all equally bless and love the Lord by whose blood we are equally redeemed."

Charles Spurgeon

- Again, I would like to sort of connect the dots between the aspects of their census then, and the aspects of our salvation now.

VERSE	THE ASPECTS OF THEIR CENSUS	THE ASPECTS OF OUR SALVATION
Verse 12	All were to have their life paid for	Christ died and paid for all for eternal life
Verse 13	The one and a half shekels paid it in full	Jesus paid for our sins in full
Verse 14	Everyone 20 years old and above was included	Everyone at the age of accountability must be counted
Verse 15	Same amount for the rich as poor	All have sinned salvation costs the same
Verse 16	A Shekel is Silver and was exchanged for lives	Silver pieces betrayed Him for our lives

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. 20 When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them -- to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

- This bronze laver was the second article one would have seen upon entering the Tabernacle, and it was for purification and cleansing.
- It's interesting to note that this purification and cleansing at the bronze laver had to take place before one could enter the Holy Place.
- The Psalmist echo's this requirement to be cleansed before anyone wishes to enter in and stand before the Lord in His Holy Place.

**Psalm 24:3-6** 3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. NIV

**Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. NIV

- There's something else here that could be easily missed; we're told that the metal for the bronze laver came from the women's mirrors.

**Exodus 38:8** He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. NKJV

- The thought is that the mirrors would have shown them, "them," in their impure and unholy condition before a pure and Holy God.
- Once we see our true condition as sinners in the reflection of the water filled bronze laver of His Word, we then will want to be cleansed.
- Let's connect some more dots between the information for them then, and the application for us now, related to the basin's cleansing.

VERSE	THEIR CONDITIONS FOR THE BASIN	OUR CONDITIONS FOR THE CLEANSING
Verse 17	Moses isn't given size or dimension	We need to be continually cleansed
Verse 18	The laver was made from mirrors and bronze	The Word judges and reflects my condition
Verse 18	The empty basin is filled with water	I'm emptied of self and filled with Him
Verse 19	They wash hands & feet at it, not in it	The Word can't be dirtied it remains pure
Verse 20	They had to be clean to enter in to the Holy Place	Sin will keep me from entering into His presence
Verse 21	They're to be cleansed or they'll die	Sin's wage is death God's cleansing Word gives life
Verse 21	It was to be lasting it wasn't sealed	The Word of God has lasted and isn't to be closed

22 Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 23 "Also take for yourself quality spices -- five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane, 24 five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. 25 And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. 26 With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony; 27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; 28 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base. 29 You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy. 30 And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

- This is an interesting blend of herbs and spices all of which were to be used as the anointing oil on all the articles and utensils.
- Not only were all the articles and utensils to be anointed, but Aaron and his sons were to be anointed with this oil as priests to the Lord.
- Oil in the scriptures is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Everything we have here points to the anointing of the Holy Spirit for His service.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

31 "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. 32 It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. 33 Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.'" 34 And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. 35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. 36 And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. 37 But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD. 38 Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people."

- Notice the explicit detail that is given to Moses. There's a reason for this as to why God wants it to be specifically and exactly like this.
- Again, I want to take each verse with each detail and connect the dots as it relates to these specific ingredients for this anointing oil.

VERSE	INGREDIENTS FOR THEIR ANOINTING	INGREDIENTS OF OUR ANOINTING
Verse 23	It included myrrh which is fragrant when crushed	The blessing and anointing comes after the breaking
Verse 25	It was blended with a perfumer's work	God blends His anointing with my work
Verse 29	It made whatever it touched holy	The anointing touches us not the other way around
Verse 30	It set apart the priest to serve the Lord	If I'm anointed I'll serve Him not self
Verse 32	It was not to be imitated or duplicated	I'm not to imitate it, fake it or duplicate it
Verse 32	It couldn't touch the body's flesh	I'm not to touch the glory with my flesh
Verse 33	It couldn't be used for perfume	I'm never to draw people to myself
Verse 34	It was blended in equal amounts	We're all equal in His anointing
Verse 35	It was to be salted and pure	We are to be the salt and light, pure
Verse 36	It was ground to dust in His presence	He created us and knows we are but dust
Verse 37	It was not to be used for one's self	His anointing isn't for my kingdom
Verse 38	It wasn't to be made for their pleasure	I am created for His good pleasure